



2024
LARAMIE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
PARTY PLATFORM

As approved by the Laramie County Democratic Party Convention
this 13th day of April, 2024

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PREAMBLE

The Laramie County Democratic Party knows that we are stronger when we stick together and take care of one another, and this knowledge is reflected in our platform. This platform contains the values that we hold dear and that we wish to share with the community. These values persist over time, irrespective of rapidly changing news or election cycles. We must bring our collective resources to bear on any shared problem and make manifest our values here in Laramie County, in Wyoming, and in the United States. In that spirit, we have outlined these shared principles to light the way forward.



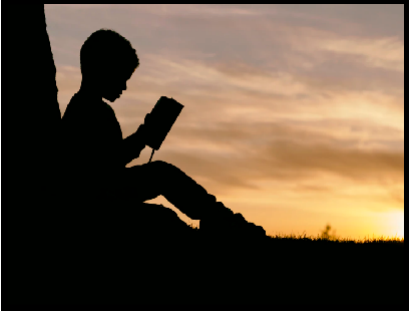
1.HEALTHCARE

Healthcare is a basic human right. Laramie County Democrats believe all Laramie County residents should have comprehensive mental and physical healthcare services, with access to healthcare education, prevention, and treatment, regardless of ability to pay. We support all women making their own healthcare decisions. Public Health services should be accessible and available to everyone. Marginalized and vulnerable members of our community must be protected. We believe in reducing healthcare disparities across race, income, education level, and other markers. With these principles in mind, the Laramie County Democratic Party supports the following positions:



- 1.01** High-quality physical and mental healthcare must be accessible for all residents in our county, irrespective of ability to pay, including what may be achieved by public means.
- 1.02** We must give everyone a chance to live a healthy life by prioritizing health and coverage over profits in our healthcare system. We believe in a greater emphasis on preventive health services in order to improve health and reduce costs of healthcare for all Laramie County residents.
- 1.03** Laramie County residents should be informed, protected, and appropriately treated by health providers and professionals.
- 1.04** Mental health services are a community priority, including expanding mental health education, prevention, and treatment, as well as increased substance abuse services for Laramie County residents of all ages and socioeconomic status.
- 1.05** All women are responsible for their own reproductive and healthcare decisions. We strongly support free and equal access to confidential family planning as a vital component of healthcare, which includes fact-based, age-appropriate comprehensive sex education and pregnancy prevention services. We believe that a woman's fundamental right to choose must be maintained.

2. EDUCATION



The Laramie County Democratic Party believes that a quality, safe education based on child-informed practices and evidenced-based curriculums is necessary for any child to succeed in life and is a crucial function of government supported by a conscientious society. As supporters of education needed for a functional democracy and an educated citizenry, and with these principles in mind, the Laramie County Democratic Party supports the following positions:

- 2.01** Support for all educators, librarians, and staff in LCSD#1 and LCSD#2 schools. This means respecting their expertise, ensuring they have needed resources, and recognizing the work that goes into educating the next generation of Wyomingites. We oppose banning or restricting books and materials from school libraries and classrooms.
- 2.02** A key to Wyoming's future is fully funding K-12 public education, including facilities, staff and training, supplies, and funded library, arts, and physical education programs.
- 2.03** Equality in education is a priority and a fundamental right under the Wyoming Constitution. This means creating and maintaining a safe and inclusive educational environment for all students regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental, learning, or physical disabilities, including, but not limited to, the implementation of anti-bullying measures to protect the rights of our marginalized students to a quality education.
- 2.04** We must implement policies that improve high school graduation rates for all students and facilitate higher post-secondary education attainment, including technical certificates or academic degrees.
- 2.05** The state must protect academic freedom and invest in the University of Wyoming and Wyoming's community colleges to ensure affordable and accessible educational institutions for research, enrichment, and economic development.

3. ECONOMY

The Laramie County Democratic Party is committed to creating jobs and investing in sustainable business practices. From investing in diversified energy generation to protecting the hard workers that make our state run, building our economy responsibly is significantly important so that everybody can feel proud to work and live here. We believe in utilizing the wealth earned in each sector to help defend against boom-and-bust cycles which makes our economy more robust. With these principles in mind, the Laramie County Democratic Party supports the following positions:

- 3.01** We should have an economy that facilitates (i) collective bargaining as one of many tools to empower workers; and (ii) competitive compensation packages that incentivize more workers to live and work in our county.
- 3.02** Available housing for all income groups helps communities retain jobs, and business owners retain high quality employees. Laramie County must address the shortage of affordable housing. We support efforts to create affordable options in our community. This includes programs to help first-time homebuyers, increased development of affordable housing, and protecting rights and access for renters. This must include support for low income housing.
- 3.03** Multiple stakeholders must contribute to the creation of new jobs across multiple sectors to promote a diverse and competitive job market.
- 3.04** Wyomingites deserve a sustainable economy where the benefits of that growth are shared with workers who helped drive the growth.
- 3.05** It is necessary to expand social programs to reduce homelessness that exists and work to build a transitional path from government supported housing solutions to independence.



4. CIVIL AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

The Laramie County Democratic Party believes we must strengthen and expand programs to protect the social well-being of all Wyoming citizens. We emphasize egalitarianism, social equality, protecting the environment, and strengthening the social safety net through policies. We support voting rights and minority rights, including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) rights, multiculturalism, and religious secularism. With these principles in mind, the Laramie County Democratic Party supports the following positions:

- 4.01** Per the Constitution of the United States of America and the Wyoming Constitution, all individuals and families have the right to have equal respect, responsibilities, and protection under the law.
- 4.02** Our community needs policies, including client-centered programs, to ameliorate serious problems facing children and families including poverty, access to childcare, mental health needs, violence, including gun-violence, inadequate healthcare, alcohol and substance abuse, and substandard housing.
- 4.03** We must create programs to address Wyoming's significant problem with pre-adolescent, adolescent, teen, and youth suicide and to provide Wyoming's youth outreach and psychiatric care with ongoing treatment.
- 4.04** We recognize the quality of life and economic impact the arts have on Wyoming citizens and we support public and private initiatives to fund public media, local artists, and arts organizations.
- 4.05** Democracy depends on robust and transparent systems for engagement and communication between government entities and the public, including online access to public meetings, easily accessible voting options, and the protection of voting rights for all Wyoming citizens.



5. ENVIRONMENT

The Laramie County Democratic Party is committed to protecting our natural resources while creating jobs, preserving habitats, and ensuring that future generations can enjoy our nation’s outdoor heritage. From investing in clean energy to protecting our air, land, and water, protecting the environment is a top priority. With these principles in mind, the Laramie County Democratic Party supports the following positions:

- 5.01 Climate change poses a real and urgent threat to our economy, our public lands and recreation, our national security, and our agricultural occupations.
- 5.02 The responsible development of our natural resources to create high quality jobs and support our communities while encouraging conservation, reducing energy waste, and protecting the environment.
- 5.03 Wyoming must have a diversified portfolio of energy production systems through clean technologies that aggressively supports the transition to clean renewable resources, residential access to clean energy, and energy storage technologies. Preserving net metering in Wyoming is vital to achieving these goals.
- 5.04 Public stewardship of the land and retaining public ownership of public lands ensures that the places we love will not only endure, but flourish. Our protected spaces provide important recreation areas for hunters, anglers, hikers, campers, and other recreationists as well as provide important habitat for Wyoming’s flora and fauna.
- 5.05 Practices such as “corner crossing” are a vital method to protect access to our public lands.



